

4,557,301).

Applicant respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 22, 23, 37, 39 and 40 because the prior art does not teach each and every feature of the referenced claims. First, Reichert does not teach or suggest a "surrounding a region where the aseptic product exits the valve with a sterile region wherein the sterile region is a sterile tunnel" and disclosed in Claims 22 and 37, as amended. To the contrary, Reichert shows a plurality of components surrounding a valve 13. There is no teaching or suggestion of having a sterile tunnel, or any sterile region, surrounding the region where the product exits the valve in Reichert. Additionally, it is not taught or suggested in Reichert how its filling unit could, in fact, meet the sterilization definition of aseptic, as disclosed in the present invention.

Second, Reichert does not teach or suggest a "sealed actuator is surrounded with the sterile region", as disclosed in Claim 22. To the contrary, the electromagnetic actuator 17 disclosed in Reichert is not anywhere near a sterile region, sterile tunnel, or the like. Further, Jorss does not remedy the aforementioned glaring deficiencies of Reichert.

Given that each of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose each and every feature of the Applicant's invention as disclosed in independent claim 22, and

dependent claims 23-27 which depend from claim 22, and independent claim 37, and dependent claims 38-40 which depend from claim 37, Applicant respectfully submits that the above-referenced rejections are defective and that claims 22-27 and 37-40, as well as new claims 41-64, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Base on the preceding arguments and amendments, Applicant respectfully believes that Claims 22-27 and 37-64 and entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefor request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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